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## GRAVE SITE COVER

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### BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

**This invention relates to covers for grave sites.**

**Grave sites require considerable maintenance in order to be kept in an attractive and dignified state. Usually they are planted with flowers, sodded or otherwise decorated to maintain their appearance. These services involve substantial labor, and hence considerable cost.**

**Grave site covers of the type contemplated by this invention have previously been proposed. For example, U.S. Pat. No. 1,686,048, which issued to A. W. Thompson on Sept. 1, 1927, teaches such a device. The grave cover of that patent contemplates the use of a glass sheet which is mounted on a band and pushed into the ground by means of spikes extending downwardly from the band. Pictures or other ornamentations may be placed in a pocket underneath the glass sheet. Although the spikes are intended to be mounted closely enough to prevent small animals from entering the grave, no provision is made for waterproofing the pocket. As a result, moisture is likely to form on the underside of the glass sheet, thereby preventing viewing through it and destroying the pictures or other ornamentations which may be present. Additionally, this cover has the disadvantage of not**

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**being securely anchored in the ground and therefore, being capable of removal or destruction by vandals.**

**In addition, U.S. Patent No. 4,200,964, which issued to Fred H. Freitag on May 6, 1980, teaches another such device. The grave cover of that patent contemplates the use of an outer casing with an inner casing fitted into the outer casing and a transparent cover plate to seal one wall of the outer casing. A decorative medium may be provided in a space defined by the outer casing, the inner casing and the transparent cover plate, and the medium may be viewed through the transparent plate. Flanges extending outwardly from the side walls of the outer casing may be used to anchor the cover to the ground.**

**Applicant is aware of other grave covers shown in the prior art, for example, U.S. Pat. Nos. 1,773,391; 2,263,087; 2,284,993; and 2,312,859, but these are believed to be even less pertinent than the ones already discussed.**

**There exist a need for a high quality grave cover, that is weather resistant, durable, inexpensive to manufacture and easy to install.**

## **OBJECTS OF THE INVENTION**

**Accordingly, it is an object of the present invention to provide a grave cover which reduces the need for and expense of maintaining grave sites.**

**It is a further object of the present invention to provide a grave cover which maintains the grave in an attractive and dignified state.**

**Another object of the present invention is to provide a grave cover manufactured from materials which are non-corrosive and weather resistant.**

**It is a still further object of this invention to provide a grave cover which is firmly and securely anchored into the ground.**

**It is therefore an object of the present invention to provide a grave cover.**

**Another object of the present invention is to provide a grave cover frame.**

**Still, another object of the present invention is to provide a headstone cover.**

**Yet, another object of the present invention is to provide a headstone cover frame.**

**A still further object of the present invention is to provide ground stakes for attaching the grave cover frame securely in the ground.**

**And, another object of the present invention is to provide ground stakes for attaching the headstone cover frame securely in the ground.**

**And yet, another object of the present invention is to provide a weather resistant grave cover.**

**Another object of the present invention is to provide a weather resistant headstone cover.**

**It is still, another object of the present invention to provide a grave cover of various sizes.**

**A further object of the present invention is to provide a headstone cover in various sizes.**

**A still further object of the present invention is to provide a grave cover in various colors.**

**And another object of the present invention is to provide a headstone cover in various colors.**

**Yet, another object of the present invention is to provide a grave cover for pets and animals.**

**It is a further object of the present invention to provide a headstone cover for pets and animals.**

**Another object of the present invention is to provide a snap together grave cover frame.**

**A further object of the present invention is to provide a grave cover and frame that requires minimum hand tools for installation.**

**Yet, another object of the present invention is to provide a headstone frame and cover that requires minimum hand tools for installation.**

**A still further object of the present invention is to provide a grave cover with various designs on the surface, such as angels, scenic landscapes, scripture or pictures.**

**Other objects and advantages of the present invention will become apparent by reading the detailed description of the invention in conjunction with the accompanying drawings,**

**in which:**

## **BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS**

**FIG. 1 illustrates a plan view of a frame work for a grave cover showing the ground stakes and raised head marker.**

**FIG. 2 is a perspective cutaway view of a grave cover showing a frame work, raised head marker and custom designed grave cover. The design on the grave cover is for illustration purpose only and not intended as any part of the present application.**

**FIG. 3 is a plan top cut away view illustrating a plan grave cover, a custom designed grave cover and raised head marker. As stated above, the custom design on the grave cover is for illustration purpose only and not intended as any part of the present application.**

**FIG. 4 is a cut away side elevational view of a grave cover showing a raised head marker frame and cover and grave cover frame with ground stakes.**

**FIG. 5 is a partial sectional view of the grave cover frame, grave cover and cover attachment.**

**FIG. 6 is a cut away partial elevational side view of a grave cover frame, head marker frame and cover, attached ground stake and detached ground stake.**

## **DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT**

**Those familiar in the art will readily see and understand the simplicity of the present invention, from the snap together schedule 40 plastic tube frame to the artificial turf cover.**

**The frame and all components are standard fittings, couplings and tube sizes. Therefore it is understood that a grave site cover could be modified to accommodate any size grave site or expanded to cover several connecting grave sites, by simply adding longer or shorter lengths of pipe and the necessary fittings and couplings. The grave site turf cover itself is manufactured in single standard sizes familiar to the industry, however it could be custom fabricated easily to accommodate almost any need. For the purpose of identifying the different parts of the present invention, please refer to the “Component List” page included in this application.**

**Referring to the drawings, FIG's 1 and 2 illustrates a schedule 40 plastic tube frame 12 and grave site cover 10 in accordance with the present invention, which is designed to fit over a grave site. The custom design 42 of FIG 2 and FIG 3 is for illustration only and is not claimed as part of the present invention. For the purpose of clarity and explanation, the following description and explanation of a grave site frame and cover, will be for and adult space in a cemetery, approximately three foot by seven foot. Drawing FIG 1, in order to build and assemble a grave site frame as illustrated, the following components would be used:**

**Schedule 40 plastic tubing;**

**(4) sticks of schedule 40 plastic tubing approximately 34 inches long shown at 14,**

**(2) sticks of schedule 40 plastic tubing approximately 10 inches long shown at 32,**

**(6) sticks of schedule 40 plastic tubing approximately 35 inches long shown at 20,**

**(2) sticks of schedule 40 plastic tubing approximately 11 inches long shown at 28,**

**(2) sticks of schedule 40 plastic tubing approximately 8 inches long shown at 31,**

**(2) sticks of schedule 40 plastic tubing approximately 3 inches long shown at 26.**

**Schedule 40 plastic fittings and couplings;**

**(2) 4-way fittings shown at 16,**

**(2) corner T fittings shown at 18,**

**(2) 5-way fittings shown at 22,**

**(2) 4-way corner fittings shown at 34,**

**(2) 22 degree T fittings shown at 24,**



**(2) corner T fittings shown at 30,**

**(8) ground stakes shown at 36.**

## **ASSEMBLING THE GRAVE SITE COVER FRAME**

**First: Lay out the pieces as shown in FIG 1.**

**Second : Working from one side;**

**Attach stick 20 to corner T 18,**

**Attach one end of stick 20 to corner T 18,**

**Attach opposite end of stick 14 to end of 4-way fitting 16,**

**Attach stick 14 into opposite end of 4-way fitting 16,**

**Attach stick 20 to side of 4-way fitting 16,**

**Attach 5-way fitting to end of stick 14,**

**Attach stick 20 to side of 5-way fitting 22,**

**Attach stick 32 into opposite end of 5-way fitting 22,**

**Attach 4-way corner fitting to end of stick 32,**

**Attach stick 20 to opposite side of 4-way corner fitting 34,**

**Move around to opposite side and repeat steps to connect sticks 14 and 32 and 20 to their counter parts.**

**Attach sticks 26 to the top 4-way fittings 22 on the head marker,**

**Attach sticks 31 to the top of corner fittings 34,**

**Attach 3-way corner T fittings 30 to the tops of sticks 31,**

**Attach 3-way 22 degree T fittings 24 to the tops of sticks 26,**

**Attach sticks 28 to 3-way corner fittings 30 and 22 degree T fittings 24,**

**Attach stick 20 to the T sides of fittings 24,**

**Attach stick 20 to the inside corner fittings of 30,**

**Attach ground stakes 36 to the underside of fittings 18, 16, 22 and 34.**

**Drawing FIG's 2 and 3 is an illustration of the versatility and a sample custom design of what can be done with the grave cover 10, the grave frame 12 may be covered with regular artificial turf 38 in almost any color. Or, the cover may be custom designed 42 with any picture, symbol or text. The cross and doves 42 are for illustration purposes only. The grave cover 38 of FIG's 2 and 3 is pre-cut from a pattern and fabricated together, a transparent identification insert 44 is fabricated into the head marker 40. A grave site cover 38 is fitted over a grave site frame 12. FIG 5 is a partial cut-away view showing the grave cover 38 and method of attaching the grave cover 38 to a grave frame 12 with self-tapping flange head stainless steel screws 50. FIG 4 is a cut-away view of the head marker 11 and grave cover 38, and a side elevational view of a grave site cover 10. FIG 6 is a cut-away view of a head marker 11 and custom designed cover 40, and the ground stakes 36 and ground stake fitting 34.**

**Various changes and modifications may be made to the grave site cover without departing from the spirit or scope of the invention, and the above description is meant to be illustrative only.**

## **Component List**

- 10...grave site cover**
- 12...grave site cover frame**
- 11...head marker**
- 14...schedule 40 tubing**
- 16...4-way fitting**
- 18...3-way corner fitting**
- 20...schedule 40 tubing**
- 22...5-way fitting**
- 24...3-way 22degree fitting**
- 26...schedule 40 tubing**
- 28...schedule 40 tubing**
- 30...3-way corner fitting**
- 31...schedule 40 tubing**
- 32...schedule 40 tubing**
- 34...4-way corner fitting**
- 36...ground stake**
- 38...artificial turf cover**
- 40...head marker cover**
- 42...illustrated design cover**
- 44...transparent identification insert**
- 50...self tapping flange head stainless steel screws**
- 60...ground surface**